

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

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P R 291135Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6122

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ET, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH COMMENTS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
ETHIOPIA

1. SOME 200 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SUPPORTED MOTION IN HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 26 CALLING ON MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA TO SHOW RESTRAINT, JUSTICE AND MERCY. THE TIMES ALSO ON NOVEMBER 26 HAD STRONG EDITORIAL DENOUNCING EXECUTIONS, WHICH TIMES SAID HAD DISASTROUSLY BLIGHTED HOPES OF CONSTRUCTIVE REFORM. EXECUTIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS CAREFULLY PLANNED SEIZURE OF POWER FROM WITHIN BY GROUP OF AMBITIOUS, CONSCIENCELESS MEN BY MEANS WHICH HAVE PROVED FATAL TO GENERAL AIMS OF MORE IDEALISTIC SUPPORTERS OF THE REVOLUTION. IT IS NOT ENOUGH, TIMES CONTINUES, TO DEPLORE SUCH A TERRIBLE LAPSE INTO SAVAGERY, AND EVERY EFFORT OUGHT TO BE MADE BY THOSE WITH INFLUENCE IN ADDIS ABABA TO SAVE OTHER PRISONERS. IN THIS REGARD, TIMES PARTICULARLY CALLED ON PRESIDENTS TOURE, NYERERE AND GOWON TO URGE A CHANGE OF HEART UPON ETHIOPIA'S NEW JUNTA. TIMES ACCUSES CHINESE OF HAVING PLANTED SEEDS OF POGROM, SAYING THAT THOSE

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RESPONSIBLE FOR EXECUTIONS SEEM TO BE IMBUED WITH THE

IDEAS OF CHINESE COMMUNISM, LACED WITH THOSE OF GUEVARISTS, TUPAMAROS AND THE LIKE.

2. IN ITS NOVEMBER 27 EDITION, TIMES REPORTS CROWN PRINCE ASFA WOSEN HAD ISSUED STATEMENT BROADCAST ON AMHARIC SERVICE OF WEST GERMAN RADIO, SAYING THAT HE WAS HORRIFIED AND DEEPLY GRIEVED BY EXECUTION AND MASSACRE. ACCORDING TO FCO, CROWN PRINCE ARRIVED IN LONDON OVER WEEKEND. FCO DOES NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE INTENDS TO STAY, BUT BELIEVE THAT HE MAY HAVE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, AS MONEY FOR HIS SUPPORT, AS WELL AS FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ABROAD PREVIOUSLY CAME BY CHECK FROM ADDIS.

3. HEAD OF EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT AT FCO TOLD EMBOFF ON NOVEMBER 27 THAT ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OF SUDAN WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ADDIS TO URGE DIRG NOT TO CARRY OUT ANY FURTHER EXECUTIONS.

4. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL IYASSU MENGESHA, HAS LEFT EMBASSY, BUT IS STILL IN UK. CHARGE, ZAUDIE MAKURIA, CALLED EMBASSY NOVEMBER 27 AND ASKED FOR NEWS ABOUT REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL EXECUTIONS. CHARGE SAID HE WAS APPALLED AT WHAT IS GOING ON IN HIS COUNTRY, BUT FOR THE PRESENT MUST CONTINUE TO SERVE HIS GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS IT IS.

SPIERS

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